



DEBRA BOWEN

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE

NEWS RELEASE

FOR PLANNING PURPOSES

September 30, 2008

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MEDIA ADVISORY

Secretary of State's Office to Host Media Tour of State Archives, Featuring Election Treasures from Last 150 Years

WHAT: See how presidential campaigns have been conducted in California from the 1850s to modern times as the state's chief archivist, Nancy Lenoil, leads a behind-the-scenes media tour of the California State Archives to preview this weekend's Archives Open House.

As the custodian of the State Archives, Secretary of State Debra Bowen maintains the complete records of the official acts of the legislative and executive branches of state government, as well as a treasure trove of Golden State history.

October is California Archives Month and the media tour is a preview to an October 4 open house, which is expected to attract several hundred people.

Visuals will include:

- Election memorabilia including military vote tallies from the re-election of President Abraham Lincoln, a 1920s demonstration voting machine, and an audio recording of presidential candidate Robert F. Kennedy's final speech.
- 150-year-old maps from the Butterfield Overland Stage (which allowed mail to be delivered from St. Louis to San Francisco), and reward posters for stagecoach bandits.
- "The stacks," where hundreds of shelves, cabinets, and safes hold California's treasures in secure, climate-controlled rooms;
- Archives preservation technicians working to repair artifacts for proper display and storage.

Because space is limited, credentialed media are encouraged to reserve their place on the media tour by calling the Secretary of State's Communications Office.

WHEN: Thursday, October 2, 2008
11:00 a.m.

WHERE: California State Archives
4th Floor
1020 O Street
Sacramento

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